Ja 1977

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

1977 - JANUARY

Sun. 2nd - 11 a.m. - Lay Preacher
(no evening service)
Tues.4th - 7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild -A.G.M.
Weds.5th - 2 p.m. - 'Young Mums' and every Wednesday
7.30 p.m.- Whist Drive and every Wednesday
Sun. 9th 11 a.m. - Mrs.M. Nash
6 p.m. - Lay Preacher
Mon.10th 8 p.m. at 6, Shorefield Close - Pilot Officers' Meeting
Thurs.13th 7.45 p.m. - Ladies Guild Cttee.
Weds. 12th 7.30 p.m. - Elders' Meeting
Fri. 14th 7 p.m. - Youth Club and every Friday
Sun. 16th 11 a.m. - Rev.A. Nash
6 p.m.
(Morning Family Communion)
Tues. 18th 7.30 p.m. - Care Committee in Pennine Room
Thurs. 20th 7.30 p.m. - United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in St. Stephen's. Service conducted by our Minister followed by 'After Meeting' Guest speaker Rev. John Gunstone.
2.30 p.m. Cttee Meeting for Women's World Day of Prayer - in The Manse
Sat. 22nd 7.30 p.m. - Christian Rendezvous at St. Stephen's
Sun. 23rd 11 a.m. - Lay Preacher
6 p.m. - Rev. A. Nash
Tues. 25th 8 p.m. -'Young Mums' Cttee at No.4. Humber Road
Weds. 26th 7.30 p.m. - Church Meeting -A.G.M.
Sun. 30th 11 a.m. - Rev.A. Nash
6 p.m.

February

Tues. 1st 7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild
Sun. 6th 11 a.m. - Rev.A. Nash
6 p.m.
(Evening Communion)

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

JANUARY - 1977.

Sun. 2	10.30 am.	- Mr.J. Lord
Mon. 3	1.30 pm.	Prompt - Pantomime
Weds. 5	6.45 pm.	- Pilots New Year Party
Thurs. 6	7.30 pm.	- Annual Party
Sun. 9	10.30 am.	- Rev.A. Nash
	6 pm.	- Rev.A. Nash - Holy Communion
	Fellowship hour to follow.	
Weds. 12	6.45 pm.	- Pilots
Sun. 16	10.30 am.	- Mrs. M. Nash
Tues. 18	7.30 pm.	- Ladies Guild - Mr.H.Hall
Weds. 19	6.45 pm.	- Pilots
Sun. 23	10.30 am.	- Rev.A. Nash - Family Communion
Mon. 24	7 p.m.	- Church Meeting - A.G.M.
Thurs. 27	7.30 pm.	- Men's Fellowship - Miss L. Priestley
Sun. 30	10.30 am.	- Mr. D. Jones

FEBRUARY.

Weds. 2	6.45 pm.	- Pilots
Sun. 6	10.30 am.	- Mr.J. Lord
Mon. 7	7 p.m.	- Junior Church A.G.M.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Jan. 2	-	Mrs.M. Hill
" 9	am. -	Miss L. Merrick
	pm. -	Mrs.M. Hill
" 16	-	Mrs.E. Cockcroft
" 23	-	Miss L. Merrick
" 30	-	Mrs.E. Cockcroft

OFFERINGS.

November	7th -	£17.28
"	14th -	£24.10
"	21st -	£16.67
"	28th -	£17.41

A reminder to Littleborough Readers.....

Mrs. Pat. Mullen is our 'collector of news items' at the Littleborough end. Please do not hesitate to hand her any item of interest.

From the Manse
January 1977

My Dear Friends,

One of my favourite walks is a delightful lane that begins by climbing a steep hillside. Real effort is needed to tackle it. About half-way up a sharp turn right gives about twenty yards of level walking but another turn reveals a further, and even steeper climb.

I have known this lane at every Season of the year. Always there has been something worth noting. There was a time of heavy snow and hard frosts. In the lane the snow was piled high against the hedges, but in a tiny nook there was, I marvelled to see, a tiny daisy defying the elements. Then, when the lane reaches the summit of the hill, the way becomes easy, with views of miles of glorious countryside.

Life itself has often been likened to a road. Sometimes it is steep and wearying and then again it may sweep along easily on a high crest. January 1977 opens up another part of our way. We do not know what lies before us, whether the road will be rough or smooth, but we do know that the right way to travel it is with Nesus Christ. He will go with us on the road of life to enrich our way with countless blessings and to strengthen us in all circumstances.

Awareness of God is not a notable feature of modern society. Most are too busy about other things, even though people know that life is much more than those other things. Here however is a word from a doctor who has placed his life under God. He says - "Experience has taught me that God asks for four things

1. That I keep in touch with Him through the Scriptures and through prayer.
2. That I keep myself morally clean.
3. That I seek His guidance.
4. That when He communicates, I obey. "

This is one man's experience of the real Presence of God, and from the remarkable incidents

of his life God certainly works in it.
So in 1977 may each one of us have the knowledge of the abiding Presence with them of God in Jesus Christ.
A happy and blessed New Year to you all.

Your sincere friend,
ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month:-
Jesus said to His disciples --
"I am with you always" - Mathew 28; 20.

OBITUARY

MRS. EDITH ANNIE GALVIN of 86 Newhey Road, Milnrow died 2nd November, aged 77 years.
MR. GEORGE FREDERICK STAPLES of 5 Mavis Grove, Milnrow died 27th November, aged 73 years.
MR. IAN LANCASTER of 34 Victoria Street, Littleborough died 5th December, aged 22 years.
MISS SARAH JANE KNIGHT previously of Harehill Court, Littleborough died 14th December, aged 91 years
Funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. Nash.
May we express our deepest sympathy with the families and friends of all concerned.

At this time our thoughts and prayers are also with Mrs. Annie Prestwich and Mr. & Mrs. Kay (Morecambe), on the loss of Mr. Harold Prestwich.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me".

FAMILY READINGS

Jan.	2	Luke 2: 41-52	Mrs. P. Royle
"	9	1 Cor. 12: 4-12	Mrs. M. Howarth
"	16	2 Tim. 1: 1-10	Mr. P. Whitehead
"	23	Phil. 2: 5-11	Miss J. Hemmings
"	30	Romans 8: 31-39	Mrs. E. Garside
Feb.	6	Colossians 1: 1-12	Mr. I. Royle

OFFERINGS

October - £140.73½. November - £98.13½.

Yearly Subscriptions:-

A reminder to all our readers ... the annual subscription for "The Messenger" is 44p. It will help greatly if you are able tp hand in this amount at the beginning of the year.

We are always on the look-out for new subscribers. If you know of someone to whom you feel our Magazine would be helpful please let either our Minister or one of the Elders know.

You are invited to send in articles for the Messenger. These should be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 19th of each month. Thank you!

MILNROW NEWS

From here and there .....

Many thanks to all who sent Christmas greetings to us at The Manse. These are much appreciated.

Special thanks to Mr. D. Lynch who plays for us every Sunday morning - and to our evening organists: Mrs. C. Hey, Mrs. E. Starkie, Mrs. Bradbury and Mr. D. Logan, also to Mr. A. Clegg.

Quietly and efficiently our band of Cleaners do their 'chores'. There are 18 of them. "Thank you" to each one.

Photographs taken on the "Thanksgiving Service" (also Toy Service Day) are now on sale. These are on view in the Schoolroom. Please place orders by putting your name on the list as soon as possible.

A tribute here to our retiring Editor Mr. Ian Royle. As you know, Ian has executed this job for a number of years, "thank you" Ian, for all you have done in this capacity.

A warm welcome to our new Editor Miss Jennifer Hemmings. Jennifer is at Church every Sunday and also helps with the Youth Club. She will always be ready to receive news. Her telephone number is Heywood 64300.

On going to press the Decorating Fund stands at £186. Our target is £250. Can we clear this by the middle of this year?

LADIES GUILD

A very happy evening was spent at the Christmas Party in December. Our thanks to those who 'conducted' us through the games - to Mr. Ian Royle who acted as chauffeur to our oldest member, Mrs. Beattie - to our Minister who acted as Father Christmas and "brewer-up", and to our "washers-up". We were accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Cynthia Hey as we sang carols by candlelight. The meal was good, the folks just grand!

There is always a welcome for any lady who is free to come along on the first Tuesday of each month. The time 7.30 p.m. Next meeting is on 4th January. Hope to see you all after the Christmas Pud, Turkey, etc. etc. have disappeared.

YOUNG MUMS'.

Our last meeting in December saw the Mums and children gathered together for Party afternoon. Before enjoying the eats however we gathered in Church for our Annual Christmas Service. The children dressed as Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds and Kings gathered around the manger. Brenda Shartles and Kathleen Geraghty read passages from the Bible, our Minister led us in prayer, and Cynthia Hey accompanied us on the organ, ably assisted by her 14½ month son Philip. Back in the Schoolroom we received a visit from Father Christmas who had presents and cards for everyone. Then a good 'nosh' was enjoyed whilst the rain poured down outside. A happy, if somewhat, at times hectic, afternoon was spent by all.

See you all on Wednesday, 5th January at 2 p.m.

APOLOGIES: for ommission of +Birthdays in December's issue. Many happy returns of the day for the following:- At Milnrow Kelsey Teale 6th, and at Littleborough Luke Vincent 2nd, Caroline Butterworth 4th, Stephanie Hill 5th, Mark Grindrod 6th, Paul Mitchell 14th, Beverley Merrick 19th, Mark Wilbraham 20th, Wendy Law 21st, Diane Reynolds 28th, Andrew Mitchell 28th.

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

(Submitted by Miss I. Tither & Mrs. D. Hanson)

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,
And all the food you'd serve Him would be the very best.
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there -
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.
But - when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word.
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Would you let Jesus walk right in or would you rush about?
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

SPECIAL: SPECIAL: SPECIAL:

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT
CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOUS ON
SATURDAY, 22nd JANUARY
AT 7.30 p.m.
IN ST. STEPHEN'S, MILNROW, WHEN WE SHALL HAVE WITH US THE CREW OF THE LOGOS SHIP II.

COME YOURSELF & BRING ANOTHER

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

At St. Stephen's:- Tracy Wynne - 8th, Jill Andrew - 11th Joanne Porter - 12th, Terri Ellis - 21st, Robert Jones 30th.

At Littleborough:- Wendy Greenwood - 5th, Lindsay Merrick - 7th, Jayne Clegg - 9th, Jill Hobbs - 12th, Susan Harrison - 23rd, Janet Leach - 27th, Paul Bailey - 28th.

Continued from page 11

We never know the things we've missed which we might have had to bear;
We never know what day or hour may change our lives - - And so, it's best to do the best we can just because We never know .....

(Surely this is a good way to start the New Year. Our thanks to you, Mrs. Priestly).

PILOTS (ST. STEPHEN'S).

On Sunday 21st November, the following were enrolled as Ordinary Seamen:-
Charlene Clegg, Suzy Curran, Alison Rhodes, Stuart Wilding.
The following promotions took place.
To Acting Able Seamen:-
Gillian Clarke, Joanne Riley, Stephen Royle, Joanne Porter, Karen Munday, Jill Andrew, Mark Baines, Jonathan Reed, Stephen Grayson, Susan Munday, Paula Bamford, Helen Clarence, Amanda Wilson, John Rawstron, Susan Jackson, Tracey Wilding.
To Able Seamen:-
Deborah Smith, Karen Royle, Gillian Rothwell, Gillian Walton, Kenneth Holden.

Our Christmas Party took place on 13th December when 27 Members sat down to a lovely spread, which rapidly vanished. Games followed and carol singing. Unfortunately time flew so quickly that many thaings had to be left for next year. Our thanks to all who helped provide the "goodies" and also supervised at eating time and assisted with the washing-up. A thank you to Mr. Derek Lynch who came along to play for the songs and carols.
At this time we are saying "farewell" to Officer Mrs. Janice Munday and Susan and Karen. They, with Donald, are moving to Wareham in Dorset. We shall now be an Officer short. If there is anybody who feels called to help with the Pilots on Monday evenings would they please see either Mr. A. Sharples or our Minister.
Eirlys Bates is also leaving the district. She, with Dad, Mum and Jason are moving to Chester. All these folk will be greatly missed. We thank you for all you have done in St. Stephen's and wish you God speed. Let us hear from you often.
Pilots re-open on Monday, 17th January. Any boy or girl aged 7 years or over who wishes to join Pilots is invited to come along then.
Officers please note - Meeting at 6 Shorefield Road at 8 p.m. to make plans for the future.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

LADIES GUILD

The Christmas Party was held on 21st December with an added attraction - this time of our MEN joining us. Everyone enjoyed the games - even if we didn't play POSTMAN'S KNOCK!! as was suggested at our last Guild meeting.

An invitation is given to any lady who is free on the third Tuesday each month to join us in the Guild. Next meeting 18th January - the Speaker Mr. H. Hall from Ashton. He will speak to us about his job as a Social Worker.

Mrs. A. Priestley has submitted the following. She informs us the poem belonged to her mother - old yet ever new -

WE NEVER KNOW

We never know how things will turn to clear our paths from grief;
We never know how near help is, nor what will bring relief.
We never know when life looks black and dark clouds loom ahead,
How soon they may be lifted and God's sun shine out instead.
We never know how near we are to the bend in life's dark road;
We never know when we'll be freed from our overwhelming load;
We never know when our pain will go and we'll learn once more to smile;
We never know how near we are to the end of life's weary mile.
We never know how loss may prove to be gain in the end
We never know that a stranger may turn out to be a friend.
We never know how soon we'll touch the things our hearts desire;
And that is why I beg you, friend, to go on and not to tire;
We never know how much we're spared by God's ever-watching care;

We

(Turn to page 9)

PHOTOGRAPHS - OLD & NEW

We have been offered a loose-leaf folder, and we thought it would be a good idea to make a photograph album of events which have taken place in our Church over the past few years, and add to it in the future. Have you any photographs or negatives? If so, would you please let Mrs. Peggy Lightfoot know. She is open to ideas. Would you please supply the date of the photograph if at all possible.

TRANSPORT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

There may be some of our older friends who may wish to come to Church on Sundays, or for special occasions and would be glad of transport to bring them. We will do our best to supply this if at all possible. Would you please advise the Church Secretary or Mr. D. Harrison - phone 79501 - as soon as possible before the service you wish to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Miss Carolyn Lord, who gained a Gold Medal in the Junior Grade for Tap Dancing on 5th December. Good luck for the future Carolyn, keep tapping!

Best wishes to Mr. J. Lord for his 70th birthday on 30th January.

It is good to know that Mrs. R. Harrison is making good progress after her recent operation.

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN (AND WOMEN) REJOICE!

It was good to have so many present from Littleborough for the carol singing in Birch Hill Hospital. Singing began in one of the wards and was continued afterwards in the Samuel Falk centre, where a Christmas party was in progress. Good also to have some of the young people with us. A very useful effort that helped quite a few folk.

"BURSTING AT THE SEAMS" - ALMOST

There was a very good turn out for the House group at Mrs. Stott's, 94 Harehill Road, where proceedings began with carols and continued with a lively discussion on "Is God really there?" Thank you for your hospitality Amy. Here's to the next time.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Another appeal for scissors for use in Junior Church - even pairs in need of sharpening or mending will be gratefully accepted.

The TOY SERVICE

Our thanks to all who gave toys of any kind on this occasion. Thanks also to Mr. D. Harrison and Jane and Susan for receiving them. We are sure that many children had a wonderful surprise on Christmas morning because of your thoughtfulness.

PARTIES

The Primary Party got underway at 2.30 p.m. on 11th December, and all enjoyed the games organised by Mrs. H. Vincent. Assisted by our Minister and his wife, they also enjoyed the singing of carols by candlelight. At 4.30 p.m. in came the Juniors and Seniors, and everybody sat down to a lovely spread of "goodies".

After the tables had been cleared, the "Sunday morning toffee gobblers" presented "Uncle Fred" with some of his favourite coconut sweets, and raised three cheers in his honour. After some very energetic games (especially for the staff), and carols, the party eventually finished up in the car park across the road from the Church, with a snowball fight - with some of the "older kids" having the best of the fun.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Gentlemen PLEASE REMEMBER your Annual Party on Thursday, 6th January. Also, Thursday 27th January when Miss Lilian Priestley will give a talk on Littleborough. She will also show slides - the LADIES are invited too.

At our last meeting the Speaker was Mr. Rex Moore, who gave an interesting and "Educational" talk. An added pleasure was the opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of Mr. F. Beattie and Mr. Wright Barker. Mr. Beattie was 80 years young - and Mr. Barker was ?? years young !! The men were treated to a Birthday supper and cake kindly donated by some of the members of the Ladies Guild. Our thanks are extended to all concerned.

CHURCH DUTIES LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 2		Mrs. E. Dunwell	Miss J. Leach
" 9	am.	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mrs. Cryer
	pm.	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. J. Lord
" 16		Mr. E. Holt	Mrs. A. Stott
" 23		Mr. R. Mullen	Miss D. Silcock
" 30		Mr. D. Harrison	Mrs. Marvelley
Feb. 6		Mrs. P. Lightfoot	Miss W. Law

COMMUNION - ELDERS.

Jan. 9	pm.	Mr. F. Simpson	Mr. J. Lord
" 23	am.	Mr. F. Simpson	Mr. J. Lord

FLOWERS.

Jan. 2	Mrs. Hill
" 9	Mrs. Mellor
" 16	Mrs. Arthur
" 23	Mrs. Ingham
" 30	Mrs. White
Feb. 6	Mrs. Mills

COFFEE ROTA.

Jan. 2	Mrs. L. Butterworth	Mrs. P. Mullen
" 9	Mrs. S. Moss	Mrs. A. Reynolds
" 16	Mrs. I. Simpson	Mrs. L. Mitchell
" 23	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. J. Hobbs
" 30	Mrs. J. Law	Miss W. Law
Feb. 6	Mrs. B. Maccormack	Mrs. P. Lightfoot

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Jan. 2	Mr. D. Harrison	-Luke 2: 41-52
" 9	Mrs. H. Vincent	-1. Cor. 12: 4-12
" 16	Mrs. M. Hill	- 2 Tim. 1: 1-10
" 23	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	-Phil. 2: 5-11
" 30	Mr. R. Mullen	- Romans 8: 31-39
Feb. 6	Mrs. J. Law	- Colossians 1: 1-12.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

Family Church Door Stewards

Jan. 2	Mrs.M. Holden	Kenneth Holden
" 9	Mr.J.Harrison	Mr.I. Royle
" 16	Mrs.A.Collins	Mrs.I. Collins
" 23	Mrs.J. Calow	Ian, Alan, Graham
" 30	Mr.A. Rae	Mr.G. Buckley

ELDERS ROTA

Evening Door Stewards	Duty Elder	Evening Organist
Jan 2 -----	Mr.Clough	---
" 9 Mr.A.Sharples	Mr.H.Whitehead	Mrs.C.Hey
" 16 Mr.A. Busill	Mr.J.Wild	Mrs.E.Starkie
" 23 Mr.H.Whitehead	Mr.A.Busill	Mrs.Bradbury
" 30 Mr.J.Wild	Mr.A.Sharples	Mrs.C.Hey
Feb.6 Mr.B.Clough	Mrs.M.Howarth	Mr.D.Logan

COMMUNION ELDERS

Feb. 6 Mr.B.Clough Mr.A.Sharples

Family Church Coffee Rota.

Jan 2	Mrs. E.Smith	Mrs.H. Buckley
" 9	Mrs.E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
" 16	Mrs.N.Whitehead	Mrs.P. Greenhalgh
" 23	Mrs.J. Duffy	Mrs.F. Butterworth
" 30	Mrs.J. Cudworth	Mrs.N.Steele
Feb.6	Mrs.C. Hey	Mrs.M. Mellor

If you are unable to fulfil your duties please find a suitable substitute. Thank you!

FLOWER ROTA

Jan. 2	Mrs.A.Wood	Mrs.D. Howarth
" 9	Mrs.F.Whitworth	Mrs.J. Cudworth
" 16	Mrs.G. Buckley	
" 23	Mrs.G. Whitaker	Miss M. Wood
	Mrs.D. Butterworth	
" 30	Mrs.F. Holland	Mrs.E. Prince

(Our Flower Ladies Mrs.E. Prince and Mrs. Freda Butterworth will be glad to hear from you should you wish to place flowers in the Church).

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH BA
The Manse
196 Harbour Lane
Milnrow

Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES

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